

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



1220 N Street, Suite 409  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 654-0321

November 26, 1997

Mr. Randall L. Brown, Chief  
Environmental Services Office  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Brown:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has reviewed the proposed Negative Declaration for the proposed Prospect Island Project (State Clearing House Number 97-102109) and the associated document entitled "Project Modification Report, October 1997" Appendix C of which serves as the Initial Study. The review period for the proposed Negative Declaration ends on November 30, 1997. We request an extension until January 5, 1997.

As the State agency charged under law to preserve and protect agriculture in California, we are concerned that the proposed redirection of this large area of prime and unique agricultural land and its attendant water rights and use is considered to be insignificant in the analysis of the project. The issue of significance needs to be evaluated not only on the merits of this individual project (which appears to be very significant), but also in the larger context of the cumulative effects of other projects proposed and reasonably anticipated by the Lead Agency and others which potentially impact agriculture and agricultural water use. In addition to an extension of the review period for this Negative Declaration, we suggest that a meeting between DWR and CDFA staff to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A.J. Yates", written over a horizontal line.

A.J. Yates  
Undersecretary

cc: Robert Potter  
Department of Water Resources